of rehabilitation/rebuilding of Railway bridges is carried out at Railways own cost only. This is through internal generation and through General Budgetary support. These sanctioned works are at various stages of planning, designing and execution. 1629 Nos. of bridges are targeted for rehabilitation/rebuilding for the year 2004-05. Balance bridges are likely to be completed in next 4 to 5 years time.

Status of Railway Zone-wise sanctioned and targeted bridge works.

Railway	No. of Bridges sanctioned as on 1.4.04	Target during 2004-05 (No. of Bridges)
Central Railway	252	101
Eastern Railway	381	101
East Central Railway	238	82
East Coast Railway	89	64
Northern Railway	1114	351
North Centre Railway	100	59
North East Railway	64	37
North Frontier Railway	284	122
North West Railway	144	104
Southern Railway	354	62
South Central Railway	294	169
South East Railway	158	55
South East Central Railway	126	44
South Western Railway	52	16
Western Railway	917	140
West Central Railway	319	122
TOTAL:	4886	1629

High Speed Freight Train Corridors

987. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to set up dedicated high speed freight train corridors, alongside the Golden

Quadrilateral of roads, to connect the major ports of the country with the four metros;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Japan has already agreed to help India with technology and finance for setting up the high speed rails corridors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Non-availability of direct trains between Jhansi-New Delhi

†988. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that thousands of passengers travel daily between Jhansi and New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether passengers face inconvenience due to non-availability of a direct train of general class on this route; and

(c) if so, whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to meet the above demand by extending the route of Taj Express from Nizamuddin to Jhansi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is substantial traffic between Jhansi and New Delhi stations.

(b) There are 30 pairs of trains which have general class coaches also. Besides 4 pairs of Rajdhani Expresses and a pair of Shatabdi Express are available between Delhi/New Delhi/Nizamuddin-Jhansi. These are

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.